

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13869 151821Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /070 W
-----046618 160944Z /10

R 141808Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7884
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 13869

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT MR BE
SUBJECT: CDUP D'ETAT IN MAURITANIA: QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1945 (NOTAL)

1. THE MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE EC,
AHMEDOU OULD ABDULLAH, TELEPHONED US JULY 14 TO SAY THAT
HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A "PRIVATE" TELEPHONE CALL FROM A
FRIEND ON THE NEW MILITARY COMMITTEE ASKING IF HE, AS
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, KNEW WHAT U.S. RECOGNI-
TION POLICY WAS, NAMELY WHETHER THE U.S. RECOGNIZED COUN-
TRIES OR GOVERNMENTS.

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2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HIS FRIEND TOLD HIM THAT THE
NEW MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT IS VERY ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE
SPEEDY U.S. RECOGNITION. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSES TO US
THAT THIS WAS NOT ANY OFFICIAL REQUEST AND THAT HE ASSUMED
THAT THIS QUESTION WAS BEING HANDLED BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR IN NOUAKCHOTT. WE TOLD
THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE WOULD REPORT HIS INFORMAL APPROACH.

3. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD US THAT HIS GREAT UNCLE, CHEINA LAGHDAF, THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, WANTED HIM TO RETURN TO NOUAKCHOTT THIS WEEKEND FOR CONSULTATIONS BUT THAT BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS HE WOULD FLY TO PARIS JULY 18 AND MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING LATTER'S

TRANSIT ENROUTE TO OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM.

4. AMBASSADOR AHMEDOU OULD ABDULLAH HAD SOME GENERALLY POSITIVE COMMENTS - WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS - ABOUT THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE NEW CABINET AND MILITARY COMMITTEE, BUT NOTED THAT NEITHER HIS COUSIN, WHO IS COMMANDER OF THE NOUAKCHOTT MILITARY REGION, NOR COLONEL HAIDILLA AND HIS DEPUTY FROM THE NORTHERN MILITARY REGION, HAD JOINED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, PREFERING TO MAINTAIN POWER BASES INTACT. DE TARR

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Message Attributes

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